Adulteration of milk

3477. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether adulteration of milk has increased according to the recent press reports;

(b) if so, what action has been taken in this regard to set right the adulterators;

(c) whether Soya milk is a viable alternative; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) As per the information made available so far by the Food (Health) Authorities of State/ Union Territories in their Annual Reports on the work done under the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954, for the calendar year 1999 the number of samples of milk examined and found adulterated during the year is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) The Food (Health) Authorities of the States and Union Territories, who are responsible for the implementation of the provisions of the PFA Act, 1954 within their respective jurisdictions, draw random samples of various articles of food including milk, through their enforcement staff to check the quality thereof and take punitive action against the offenders under the law.

(c) and (d) Viability of a product depends upon a number of factors, which affect its marketability. Hence it is difficult to offer any comments in this regard.

Statement

S/No.	Name of the State/U.T.	Number of milk samples examined during the calendar year 1999	Number of milk samples found adulterated during the year 1999
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	10	07
2.	Chandigarh	32	05
3.	Daman and Diu	Nil	—
4.	Delhi	305	50

S/No.	Name of the State/U.T.	Number of milk samples examined during the calendar year 1999	Number of milk samples found adulterated during the year 1999
5.	Manipur	01	Nil
6.	Mizoram	Nil	—
7.	Nagaland	09	03
8.	Rajasthan	466	151
9.	West Bengal	36	30

Iron deficient women and children in Rajasthan

3478. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women and children suffering from iron deficiency in the country, particularly in Rajasthan;

(b) whether Government propose to take some measures to eradicate this disease from the country; and

(c) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) According to data available from the National Family Health Survey 1998-99, the percentage of ever married women ages 15—49 years and children under the ages of 3 years found to have anaemia in the country and in Rajasthan is as below:

	Ever Married Women 15—49 yrs.	Children under the age of 3 years
India	51.8%	74.3%
Rajasthan	48.5%	82.3%

(b) and (c) Iron deficiency is a problem of inadequate nutrition. A National Nutritional Policy was formulated in 1993 and the National Plan of action on nutrition is being implemented through a number of departments of Government of India including, among other, the Integrated Child Development Services Programme of Department of Women and Child Development and the Reproductive and Child Health Programme of the Department of Family Welfare for improving the nutritional status of pregnant women and children.

Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme implemented throughout the country, pregnant women and children (1—5 years) are provided with Iron the Folic Acid tablets for prophylaxis and treatment of anaemia.